

Poetry.

"They tell me you're quite a lover of poetry, Gusher?"

"Yes; I love poetry as the eagle does the sunlight."

"What is your definition of poetry?"

"Poetry, my dear fellow, is the sublime in nature; the beautiful in thought."

"I see; the spring bonnet of common speech, and all that sort of thing."

"Every man who loves the beautiful has something of the poet in him, and feels at times a strange yearning to—"

"Plo the air and lift himself by the bootstraps. Yes; I often get that way myself. Go on."

"Poetry is the perfume of life; the fragrance of love; the blossom of all good."

"And the distraction of every newspaper man."

"It fills the soul with windows; wings the feet, makes mountains speak, and clouds commune together."

"But it can't pay the rent, or put buttons on a shirt."

"Perhaps not; but it can fill a cabin with the music of heaven."

"But it can't put a pie in a poor man's paucity."

"There no use in wasting eloquence on you, old man. You have no poetry about you."

"May be not; but I've got a little money drawing interest, Tom, and the children are fat and hearty, thank you."

General Grant's Probable Escape.

Grant's old body servant is employed in the departments here, says a letter from Washington to the Cleveland Leader. His name is William Barnes, and he was with Grant from 1862 until the second year of his presidential term. William is a good looking negro, who, though he must be more than forty-five years old, does not look over twenty-five. He is very proud of service with Grant, and delights to talk of the reminiscences of the time. He says Grant was the kindest of masters, and never getting excited or angry, whatever the provocation. It was William Barnes who probably saved Grant from being assassinated on the night that Lincoln was killed. Grant arrived in Washington that day, and it was Mrs. Grant's intention to go with the General to the theatre that night. She had ordered that their baggage be taken to the hotel, but William misunderstood her order and had it transferred to the Baltimore and Ohio depot. This was not discovered until too late to go to the theatre, and then Mrs. Grant decided that they would go on to New Jersey and let the theatre go. Had William not made the mistake, Grant would have been one of that party in Lincoln's box that night. As it was he had hardly gotten out of the city before news arrived that President Lincoln was shot and he had to return.

An Old Prophecy.

Somebody has unearthed an old prophecy for the year 1886 of a decidedly uncomfortable nature. It appears that in the church of Oberlin, near the city of Treverin, Germany, there is a stone tablet some centuries old, on which is cut the prophetic verse—in prose it may be rendered: "When Mark shall bring us Easter, and Anthony shall sing praises at Pentecost, and John shall swing the censor at the feast of Corpus Domini, then shall the whole earth resound with weeping and wailings." Now it so happens that next year Easter falls on St. Mark's day, Pentecost on that of St. Anthony of Padua, and the Corpus Domini comes on St. John the Baptist's day, June 24th. Here, then, are the first conditions of the prophecy fulfilled, so that now believers in prophecies and anxious minded persons generally have only to sit down and think of everything disagreeable that can possibly happen to this poor old planet and the dwellers thereon between January and December, 1886. And really if the cyclones, and earthquakes, and epidemics, and "wars and rumors of wars" of the years 1883-4-5 are to be eclipsed, the prospect is not an agreeable one.—London Globe.

Greenbacks.

"Old Greenbacks" was the son brought given to Secretary Chase in the army, from the green ink with which the backs of the United States paper money was printed. This ink was invented by Stacy J. Edson, and patented in 1855, as anti-photographic. It could not be photographed on account of its color, and could not be discolored by alkalis by the counterfeiter to get a complete fac simile of the bills, and as it was a secret known only by the American Bank Note Company and the inventor, it was impossible to counterfeit the greenback money. It was used by many banks before the war, but was never a leading feature in the bill; but even if the composition of the ink had been known, it would have been of no use, as the work could not be copied from the genuine bills with any kind of ink. The date of the patent could be seen on all the bills, in small print. Old General Spinner wanted to have Congress enact a law making the counterfeiting of national notes a capital offense, as was once the case in Great Britain, and to have them to bear the legend which had been on the bills then issued by the Bank of England: "To Counterfeit is Death." Ben. Perley Poore.

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